

REMARKS

The applicants have studied the Office Action dated April 5, 2004. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer (USPN 5,933,449).

Amended claim 1 recites "wherein said cross-bar switch includes a plurality of digital buffers." Claim 4 recites "a first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth buffer, each having an input, an output, and a control input, and wherein said control inputs enable and disable the coupling of signals through said buffers, and wherein said output of said first and second buffers are coupled to said input of said first interface." The references cited by the Examiner do not disclose a cross-bar switch that includes digital buffers, coupling of signals through buffers and buffers that are coupled to input of interfaces (i.e., cross-bar switch that includes and implemented with digital buffers).

The Examiner admits that Meyer does not disclose cross-bar switch implemented with digital buffers. However, the Examiner states that Mu reference teaches a cross-bar switch implemented with digital buffers. (*See page 3 of the Office Action*). The Mu reference states "Generally conventional systems routed data by moving the data to be transmitted from a transmitting data port to an input buffer associated with that data port, along a single data line, to an input of crossbar switch Each data port has a data buffer and each data buffer includes block units that each hold a portion of a packet of data." (*See col. 2, lines 8-25 of the Mu reference*). Thus, each of the data port has a data buffer associated with it, but the Mu reference does not disclose that the cross-bar switch includes digital buffers, as recited in the claims. The Mu reference only states that each of the data port has a data buffer. The Mu reference states "within the crossbar switch, each data line is coupled to each other data line at an

intersection point." (See col. 2, lines 23-25 of the reference). Thus claims 1-17 distinguish over the art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-17 should be withdrawn.

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 17-0026. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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